

COUNTRY

Poland

REPORT NO.

1. Polish [redacted] and Discharge of the 1929 Class.

2. 16th Polish Labor Service Brigade.

25X1A

25X1

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 16 July 1953

REFERENCES

2

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

1.

25X1

2.

3.

4. The brigade was subordinate to a headquarters which was stationed at Rzeszow (R 51/V 74) and supplied the unit with rations and ordnance. From May to October 1952, the brigade had to do blasting and excavating work in a wooded area near Kreiowice, which was connected with an ammunition installation whose construction had been started in this area by the Germans during the war. Fellow workers [redacted] said that underground installations [redacted] were in this area. ³

25X1

5. The brigade was organized into three companies and totalled about 500 men. [redacted] included about 80 percent Upper Silesians of German origin and 20 percent Upper Silesians of Polish origin. [redacted] consisted of 70 to 80 percent Poles from the area around Lodz (Q 52/O 93) and 20 to 30 percent Upper Silesians. [redacted] included Poles and so-called Russians, from the East Polish districts which were annexed by the USSR. In 1952, the standard period of service in the Labor Service was fixed at six months, while the man had

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1A

previously served for eight or twelve weeks in the individual districts.

6. The duty schedule provided for daily military training from 5 to 8 p.m., and about half an hour's political indoctrination two or three times weekly. Military training included basic training without rifles, salutes and field sports, marksmanship training with rifles, field training, close combat training and simple attack practices at platoon and company level. Each man once received 20 rounds live ammunition during this training. While being trained with weapons, each man had a short Soviet-made rifle. The brigade had a limited number of small-bore rifles. Before the discharge of the servicemen, the weapons were returned to Rzeszow. Except for one record practice with live ammunition for which each serviceman had 20 rounds in the pockets of his trousers, marksmanship training was performed with blank cartridges. Small-bore target practices were made only by officers and NCOs.
7. In 1952, the service color of the Polish Labor Service, which consisted of white-bordered red patches on the collar reverses, was abolished. Every serviceman had a fatigue uniform and a dress uniform of olive drab denim, which consisted of a pair of long trousers and a so-called Russian shirt worn over the trousers. The belt was worn over the shirt. The shirt of the dress uniform had epaulets with the color of the uniform. At training, the pants were worn as ski trousers with short fabric puttees and sturdy laced shoes. All members of the brigade except for the brigade leader wore garrison caps. Every labor serviceman, in Polish "Junak", received 300 Zl. monthly for his work, from which 298 Zl. were deducted for accommodations, clothing and food. The rate of monthly pay was 60 Zl., so every serviceman had 62 Zl. at his disposal.
8. Labor servicemen and NCOs were on terms of comradeship. [redacted] no spying and surveying activities. The servicemen only criticised the small wages. Most of them enjoyed tent community life, sports and military training and, specifically, marksmanship service. Political indoctrination was held by the company leader in the form of short lectures as directed by a special political officer at the brigade headquarters. There were almost no discussions. After indoctrination, the men also hardly talked on what had been lectured. 25X1
1. [redacted] 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. See Par. 1, Comment to [redacted] 25X1A
3. [redacted] Comment. From the time before the war, an explosives factory has been known to exist in Gorajowice, 3 km north of Jaslo. 25X1A

SECRET